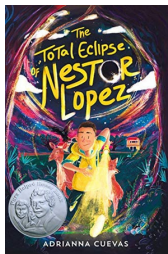




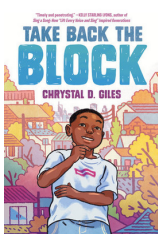
Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help. With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her swim-crazed community counting on her to turn the school's failing team around. But that's easier said than done, especially when their rival, the prestigious Holyoke Prep, has everything they need to leave the Mighty Manatees in their wake. Can Bree defy the odds and guide her team to a state championship, or have the Manatees swum their last lap—for good?



The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez by Adrianna Cuevas

All Nestor Lopez wants is to live in one place for more than a few months and have dinner with his dad. When he and his mother move to a new town to live with his grandmother after his dad's latest deployment, Nestor plans to lay low. He definitely doesn't want to anyone find out his deepest secret: that he can talk to animals. But when the animals in his new town start disappearing, Nestor's grandmother becomes the prime suspect after she is spotted in the woods where they were last seen. As Nestor investigates the source of the disappearances, he learns that they are being seized by a tule vieja—a witch who can absorb an animal's powers by biting it during a solar eclipse. And the next eclipse is just around the corner...Now it's up to Nestor's extraordinary ability and his new friends to catch the tule vieja and save a place he might just call home.



Take Back the Block by Chrystal D. Giles

Wes Henderson has the best style in sixth grade. That - and hanging out with his crew (his best friends since little-kid days) and playing video games - is what he wants to be thinking about at the start of the school year, not the protests his parents are always dragging him to. But when a real estate developer makes an offer to buy Kensington Oaks, the neighborhood Wes has lived his whole life, everything changes. The grownups are supposed to have all the answers, but all they're doing is arguing. Even Wes' best friends are fighting. And some of them may be moving. Wes isn't about to give up the only home he's ever known. Wes has always been good at puzzles, and he knows there has to be a missing piece that will solve this puzzle and save the Oaks. But can he find it...before it's too late?



The 500 Million Dollar Heist by Tom Sullivan

CASE NO. 003: THE GARDNER
MARCH 18, 1990
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
1:24 a.m.

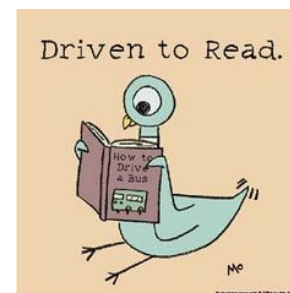
Two thieves posing as Boston Police officers gain entry to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Once inside, they steal thirteen pieces of art, including several rare Rembrandts. Eighty-one minutes later, these men walk off with \$500 million worth of art. This heist is the single largest private property theft in the United States—and despite decades of investigation and dozens of false leads, the case remains unsolved to this day.

All book descriptions adapted from Amazon.com listings.

NCBA

2023

Northborough Children's Book Award Nominee List



How do I participate?

Kids in grades 3, 4 and 5 are eligible.

Read at least 3 of the books by May 31st.

Vote for your favorite book!

Winners will be announced in early June.

Who will win? You decide!



NCBA is sponsored by
the Northborough Education
Foundation.
Thank you!

Checklist

Use this as a bookmark, and to keep track of which books you have read or listened to!

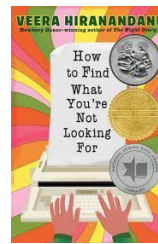
- Amari and the Night Brothers
- Ben Yokoyama & Cookie of Doom
- Houdini & Me
- How To Find What You're Not Looking For
- The Lion of Mars
- Maybe, Maybe, Marisol Rainey
- Swim Team
- Take Back the Block
- The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez
- The 500 Million Dollar Heist

Once you have read at least three of these titles you are eligible to vote for your favorite!

Voting begins in May. Check with your school librarian for more information!

Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston

Amari has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive. When she finds a ticking briefcase in his closet from Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain they hold the key to locating Quinton. Now she must compete for a spot against kids who've known about magic their whole lives. No matter how hard she tries, Amari can't seem to escape their intense doubt and scrutiny. But if she doesn't stick it out and pass the tryouts, she may never find out what happened to Quinton.



How To Find What You're Not Looking For by Veera Hiranandani

Twelve-year-old Ariel Goldberg's life feels like the moment after the final guest leaves the party. Her family's Jewish bakery runs into financial trouble, and her older sister has eloped with a young man from India following the Supreme Court decision that strikes down laws banning interracial marriage. As change becomes Ariel's only constant, she's left to hone something that will be with her always--her own voice.



The Lion of Mars by Jennifer L. Holm

Bell is just like any other kid. He loves cats, eats all kinds of cake, and is curious about everything. Oh, and he lives on another planet! Living on Mars comes with a ton of rules. Like don't go outside without a buddy. Always keep a glow stick in your pocket. And no contact with the kids in the other settlements. Ever. Then a virus breaks out among the grown-ups, and the children are the only ones who can help. Suddenly it's up to Bell - a regular kid in a very different world - to uncover the truth and save his family...and possibly unite an entire planet.



Maybe, Maybe, Marisol Rainey by Erin Entrada Kelly

Marisol Rainey's mother was born in the Philippines. Marisol's father works and lives part-time on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. And Marisol, who has a big imagination and likes to name inanimate objects, has a tree in her backyard she calls Peppina . . . but she's way too scared to climb it. This all makes Marisol the only girl in her small Louisiana town with a mother who was born elsewhere and a father who lives elsewhere (most of the time)—the only girl who's fearful of adventure and fun. Will Marisol be able to salvage her summer and have fun with Jada, her best friend? Maybe. Will Marisol figure out how to get annoying Evie Smythe to leave her alone? Maybe. Will Marisol find the courage to climb Peppina? Maybe.

Ben Yokoyama & the Cookie of Doom by Matthew Swanson

Live each day as if it were your last. When Ben reads his fortune-cookie fortune, he's alarmed and inspired. He begins drafting a bucket list of unfinished tasks and lifelong dreams. As Ben marches himself in and out of trouble, takes useful risks, and helps both his parents to see the bigger picture, readers discover how something that seems scary can instead be empowering--leading to friendships that might never have been made, neighbors that might never have been known, and apple pies that might otherwise never have been baked.

Houdini and Me by Dan Gutman

11-year-old Harry Mancini is NOT Harry Houdini--the famous escape artist who died in 1926. But Harry DOES live in Houdini's old New York City home, and he definitely knows all about Houdini's life. When someone starts texting him claiming to be Houdini from beyond the grave, it's hard for Harry to believe! But this Houdini texts the secrets to all of the escape tricks the dead Houdini used to do. What's more, Houdini's offering Harry a chance to go back in time and experience it for himself. What should Harry do?

